

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 1652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, HO

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON FESITRANH PRESIDENT CELEO GONZALEZ

1. ON NOVEMBER 18, UNDER BIRGHT GREEN HEADLINES, THE SAN PEDRO SULA DAILY, LA PRENSA, PRINTED STRONG ACCUSATIONS BY CGT PRESIDENT JULIAN LAGOS AGAINST FESITRANH PRESIDENT CELEO GONZALEZ. THE CGT IS THE CLAT (CHRISTIAN) AFFILIATED TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION BASED IN TEGUCIGALPA. LOAGOS ACCUSED GONZALEZ OF BEING A "MERCHANT" AND OF BEING INDIFFERENT TO THE PLIGHT OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE FESITRANH HOUSING PROJECT WHO HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY HURRICANE FIFI. NOTICIA QUOTED LAGOS AS SAYING THERE SHOULD BE MANY CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP IN THE COUNTRY'S UNIONS TO PREVENT SUCH SITUATIONS AS THE ONE CREATED BY GONZALEZ' INDIFFERENCE.

2. AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN EL DIA NOVEMBER 22 DEFENDED GONZALEZ AND ACCUSED LAGOS OF HAVING BEEN EXPELLED FROM HIS OWN UNION FOR THEFT OF FUNDS. IN A PAID FULL PAGE AD PLACED IN TIEMPO NOVEMBER 22 FESITRANH'S AFFILLIATES MADE A STRONG DEFENSE OF GONZALEZ AND WERE STRONGLY CIRTICAL OF LAGOS AND LA NOTICIA AND LA PRENSA.

3. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND LAGOS' GRATITOUS ATTACK ON GONZALEZ ALTHOUGH ITS PUBLICATION BY NOTICIA IS
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CONSISTENT WITH THAT NEWSPAPER'S GENERALLY ANTI-UNION VIEWPOINT.

WHATEVER ITS CAUSE IT WILL CERTAINLY SERVE TO REINFORCE THE
VIEW HELD BY MOST MEMBERS OF FESITRANH'S AFFILLATES, THAT THE
CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS, BOTH UNIONS (I.E. UNC, CGT) AND
SOCIAL AGENCIES (E.E. CARITAS) ARE UNITED IN THEIR GOAL OF
USING THE CONSEQUENCES OF FIFI FOR POLITICAL GAIN. LAGOS'
ATTACK ON GONZALEZ FOR BEING INDIFFERENT TO THE HURRICANE
VICTIMS OF THE FESITRANH HOUSING PROJECT MUST BE PARTICULARLY
RANKLING COMING SUCH A SHORT TIME AFTER GONZALEZ STEPPED DOWN
FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CTH IN ORDER TO DEVOTE MORE TIME
TO THE NEEDS OF THE PROJECT.
SOWASH

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